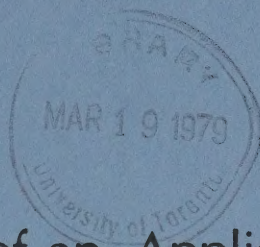


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NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD
REASONS FOR DECISION



In the Matter of an Application under
the National Energy Board Act

of

WESTCOAST TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED

JANUARY 1979

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

REASONS FOR DECISION

In the matter of an application under
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WESTCOAST TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED

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Ce rapport est publié
dans les deux langues
officielles.

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

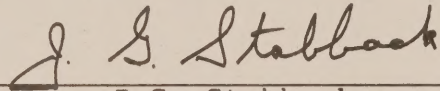
In the Matter of the Application Under
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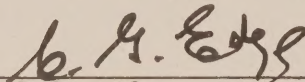
WESTCOAST TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED

January 1979

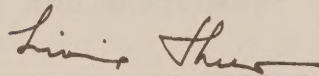
The Board, having received and considered the report of the Presiding Member, Mr. J. Farmer made pursuant to section 14 of the Act, and on the basis of that report having satisfied itself with regard to all considerations that appear to it to be relevant, hereby adopts that report as the statement of its findings and its decision on the application.



J.G. Stabback,
Chairman



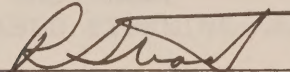
C.G. Edge,
Vice-Chairman



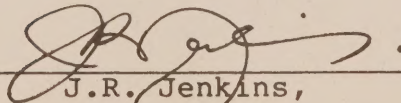
L.M. Thur,
Associate Vice-Chairman



R.F. Brooks,
Associate Vice-Chairman



Robert A. Stead,
Member



J.R. Jenkins,
Member

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER

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NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF an application by Westcoast Transmission Company Limited for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under Part III of the National Energy Board Act.

(File No. 1555-W5-64)

Heard at Ottawa, Ontario on 31 August 1978.

BEFORE:

J. Farmer

as Presiding Member duly appointed by the Board for that purpose in accordance with section 14 of the National Energy Board Act.

APPEARANCES

C.D. Williams, Q.C.)	Westcoast Transmission Company Limited
P.G. Griffin)	National Energy Board

REPORT OF THE
PRESIDING MEMBER

Westcoast Transmission Company Limited ("Westcoast" or "the Applicant") was incorporated by a Special Act of the Parliament of Canada assented to on 30 April 1949. The powers of the Applicant include those of constructing and operating interprovincial and international pipelines and related facilities for the transmission of oil and gas, and of purchasing, selling and distributing natural gas. On 16 August 1971, Westcoast was granted letters patent continuing it as a company under the provisions of Part I of the Canada Corporations Act, and on 5 May 1976, Westcoast was continued as a company under the Canada Business Corporations Act. As such, Westcoast is a "company" within the meaning of the National Energy Board Act ("NEB Act").

Westcoast owns and operates a pipeline for the transmission of natural gas which extends from a point on the international boundary between Canada and the United States of America near Huntingdon, British Columbia, northwards via Hope, Williams Lake and Prince George to a point near Chetwynd, British Columbia, where the main pipeline divides into two branches. One branch extends north from Chetwynd to Fort Nelson, British Columbia, and then through the Yukon Territory to the Pointed Mountain area in the Northwest Territories. The other branch extends eastwards from Chetwynd to Taylor, British Columbia.

From Taylor, the pipeline system extends by way of two branches into the Province of Alberta, crossing the British Columbia/Alberta border near Boundary Lake and Dawson Creek, British Columbia. The pipeline system includes extensive gathering pipelines in the Fort Nelson and Fort St. John areas of British Columbia. At the international boundary at Huntingdon, British Columbia, the Westcoast pipeline connects with that of Northwest Pipeline Corporation. The pipeline system owned and operated by Westcoast is a "pipeline" within the meaning of the NEB Act.

As part of the business of operating its pipeline, Westcoast purchases and sells all of the gas transmitted through its pipeline. The gas which Westcoast purchases and transports is produced in the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Virtually all of the gas purchased by the Applicant and transmitted through its pipeline is sold to its four principal customers at points on its main pipeline south of Chetwynd, British Columbia. Three of these customers - British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, Inland Natural Gas Co. Ltd., and Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. - are natural gas distributors in the Province of British Columbia. The fourth - Northwest Pipeline Corporation - purchases gas from Westcoast at the international boundary, the export of which gas is authorized by Licence No. GL-41, issued under Part VI of the NEB Act.

THE APPLICATION

By an application dated 25 April 1978, Westcoast applied to the Board under Part III of the NEB Act for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to operate certain pipeline facilities owned by Gas Trunk Line of British Columbia Ltd. ("Gas Trunk"). The pipelines and related facilities are shown on the map which is Appendix I and are more particularly described in Appendix II to this report. These pipeline facilities owned by Gas Trunk are part of the Fort St. John gathering system, and are described by the Applicant as being an integral part of its overall utility system.

GAS TRUNK LINE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LTD.

Gas Trunk was incorporated on 24 July 1959 under the Companies Act of the Province of British Columbia with an authorized capital of 10 million common shares, of which 400,020 shares are issued and outstanding. Of the outstanding shares, 399,995 were originally issued to Westcoast. By an order granted under the Curator's Act of the Province of British Columbia on 26 June 1978, Westcoast has acquired the other 25 outstanding common shares of Gas Trunk. Westcoast has and continues to exercise absolute control over the affairs of Gas Trunk.

Westcoast and Gas Trunk plan to amalgamate once the long-term debt issued by Gas Trunk has been retired, which the Applicant anticipated would be accomplished by the end of 1978. At that time, Westcoast and Gas Trunk would make the appropriate applications under the Canada Business Corporations Act and section 63 of the NEB Act for approval of the amalgamation. In furtherance of that intention, Gas Trunk has passed the necessary resolution to have that company continued under the Canada Business Corporations Act. On 26 June 1978, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs of the Province of British Columbia authorized the continuation of Gas Trunk as a company under the Canada Business Corporations Act. On 5 July 1978, a Certificate of Continuance was issued to Gas Trunk under the Canada Business Corporations Act. As a result, Gas Trunk is now a "company" within the meaning of the NEB Act.

By Order G-21-78, dated 8 June 1978, the British Columbia Energy Commission gave its authorization, under the Energy Act of the Province of British Columbia, to the merger and amalgamation of Gas Trunk with Westcoast.

THE GAS TRUNK PIPELINE FACILITIES

The approximately 158.28 miles of pipeline owned by Gas Trunk constitute four sections of the overall Fort St. John gathering system operated by Westcoast. These sections of pipeline are:

- (1) Beg/North Jedney Pipeline: This pipeline of some 47.02 miles of 16-, 12- and 6-inch diameter pipe connects the North Beg, North Jedney and Beg gas fields to the Alaska Highway pipeline owned and operated by Westcoast. The Gas Trunk pipeline connects with Westcoast's facilities at a point approximately 10 miles south of the northern end of the Alaska Highway pipeline.
- (2) Bubbles/Jedney Pipeline: This pipeline, consisting of approximately 24.83 miles of 12- and 10-inch diameter pipeline, connects the Jedney and Bubbles gas fields with the northern end of Westcoast's Alaska Highway pipeline.
- (3) Nig Creek/Laprise Pipeline: This pipeline of approximately 52.09 miles of 16- and 12-inch diameter pipe extends from the Laprise Booster Station, owned and operated by Westcoast, to the Buick Creek Booster Station, which is owned by Gas Trunk. At the latter station, this pipeline connects with the West Buick pipeline owned and operated by Westcoast.
- (4) Boundary Lake Pipeline: The principle component of this pipeline is some 31.41 miles of 16-inch diameter pipe, which extends from its point of connection with Westcoast's 30-inch main transmission pipeline at Taylor, British Columbia, to a point in the Boundary Lake area about one-half mile from the British Columbia/Alberta boundary. At the latter point, the Gas Trunk facilities connect with a pipeline owned by Westcoast, in respect of which this Board has issued Certificate No. GC-16. The Westcoast pipeline extends across the Alberta border to connect with a pipeline owned by Alberta Gas Trunk Line Company. The Gas Trunk facilities on this pipeline include two 6-inch lateral pipelines and the Boundary Lake gas processing plant.

The Beg/North Jedney, Bubbles/Jedney and Nig Creek/Laprise pipelines are all connected by pipelines owned and operated by the Applicant, with Westcoast's gas processing plant at Taylor, British Columbia, and in turn with Westcoast's main transmission

pipeline. The natural gas produced in the gas fields served by these three Gas Trunk facilities is, with the exception of gas used for compressor fuel and other company uses, delivered into Westcoast's main transmission pipeline for sale by the Applicant to its domestic and export customers. Similarly, the Boundary Lake pipeline together with Westcoast's pipeline at the Alberta border constitute a continuous pipeline linking the Alberta Gas Trunk Company system with the Applicant's main transmission pipeline at Taylor. The Boundary Lake pipeline is used to deliver gas produced in the Province of Alberta and in the Boundary Lake gas field in British Columbia into the Westcoast system at Taylor. There are no local deliveries of natural gas made from the four sections of pipeline owned by Gas Trunk; the sole purpose of these pipelines is to gather natural gas for delivery into Westcoast's main transmission system.

The above pipeline facilities and the Kobes Creek Booster Station, which is also owned by Gas Trunk, were all constructed between 1959 and 1964 under the authority of various certificates of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to the Pipe-Lines Act of the Province of British Columbia.

The Kobes Creek Booster Station is located on the Alaska Highway pipeline owned and operated by the Applicant, and is not connected to any of the sections of pipeline owned

by Gas Trunk. While the Province of British Columbia originally authorized Gas Trunk to construct and operate this station, Gas Trunk subsequently entered into an agreement with Westcoast dated 23 November 1961, whereby the right to operate that booster station was transferred to Westcoast. Approval of this arrangement was given by Certificate No. 87 issued on 23 November 1961 under the Pipe-Lines Act of the Province of British Columbia. The operation of the Kobes Booster Station by Westcoast was authorized by this Board by Order No. XG-1-61, issued on 27 November 1961.

By reason of the historical relationship between Gas Trunk and Westcoast, there has been considerable intermingling of the facilities of the two companies:

- (1) The Bubbles Field Booster Station, which is owned by Westcoast, is located on the Bubbles/Jedney pipeline of Gas Trunk. The construction and operation of that station was authorized by this Board by Order No. XG-5-66, issued on 24 March 1966.
- (2) The Nig Creek Booster Station, located at the mid-point of Gas Trunk's Nig Creek/Laprise pipeline, is owned by Westcoast, together with a 6-inch diameter lateral pipeline connected to the Gas Trunk pipeline. These facilities were authorized by this Board by Order No. XG-13-70, issued on 28 May 1970.
- (3) The Laprise Booster Station at the northern end of Gas Trunk's Nig Creek/Laprise pipeline, and the 6-inch diameter Amerada-Laprise lateral pipeline, which connects with Gas Trunk's pipeline at the Laprise Station, are both owned by Westcoast and authorized by this Board by Orders numbered XG-6-66, XG-9-72, and XG-4-74, issued on 24 March 1966, 26 October 1972 and 2 May 1974, respectively.

- (4) The Boundary Lake Compressor Station, located adjacent to the gas processing plant owned by Gas Trunk, is owned by Westcoast and its construction and operation were authorized by this Board by Order No. XG-11-74, issued on 19 September 1974.

DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GAS TRUNK FACILITIES

After construction, the Gas Trunk gathering pipelines, except for the Laprise pipeline, were pressure tested to 110 percent of maximum operating pressure of 1,000 psig, in accordance with the standard ASA-B31.8 applicable at that time. The Laprise pipeline was tested at 1,220 psig for a maximum allowable operating pressure of 1,098 psig. The required maximum operating pressure under peak day flow conditions for the gathering facilities is 829 psia at the discharge of the Kobes Creek Booster Station, as shown on the Flow Diagram filed by the Applicant. Westcoast wishes to maintain the maximum allowable operating pressure level of 1,000 psig for which these facilities were originally designed.

All of the pipelines and booster stations which are the subject of this application are in use and operating satisfactorily. The maintenance programme which has been carried out regularly on the Gas Trunk facilities is similar to that performed by Westcoast on all its gathering pipelines. External coating, cathodic protection and continuous injection of a rust inhibitor have been applied to protect these facilities and corrosion rates have been monitored. A review of the

operating records by Westcoast indicated that, based on corrosion coupon and hydrogen probe results, pipe-to-soil potentials and rectifier currents and voltages, the Gas Trunk facilities are in good operating condition.

In the operational history of the Gas Trunk facilities, there has only been one recorded failure which was a leak in a 4.5-inch diameter above-ground pipeline on 9 February 1976. As a result of this failure, the small diameter above-ground lines, such as the blowdown lines in the Jedney and Bubbles pipelines, were replaced because the original pipe was not suitable by present standards for sour gas and low temperature service.

At the present time, Westcoast has no plans to abandon the operation of any section of the Gas Trunk facilities or to make any major additions. The Applicant sees no requirement for upgrading or requalification of the Gas Trunk facilities.

From an environmental viewpoint, Westcoast indicated that the Gas Trunk facilities are inspected at least once each month, and that more frequent inspection patrols are made during the spring thaw and periods of heavy rainfall. There are no areas where pipeline relocation appears necessary, either now or in the foreseeable future. There are, however, two crossings of the Beaton River by Gas Trunk facilities which the Applicant indicated were causing some problems. Westcoast's geotechnical consultant has studied the two crossing sites and

was preparing recommendations for remedial measures, which the Applicant anticipated would be implemented prior to the winter of 1978. The Applicant indicated that herbicides have not and would not be used to control vegetation along the Gas Trunk rights-of-way.

During the course of the hearing, the question arose as to whether it was necessary for Westcoast to operate the southern portion of the Beg pipeline owned by Gas Trunk, which is located parallel to the northerly 10 miles of Westcoast's Alaska Highway pipeline. The Applicant indicated that, while the two parallel sections of pipeline are being utilized at approximately 50 percent of capacity, the abandonment of either of the sections of pipeline would disrupt the gathering flow design and capacity, and would reduce the security of supply and present operating flexibility.

GAS SUPPLY AND MARKETS

In support of its application and to indicate the anticipated future use of the Gas Trunk facilities, Westcoast provided the maximum day volume obligations of the producers supplying gas to the various sections of the Gas Trunk facilities, together with the current average day deliveries to those facilities, which are set out in Appendices III and IV to this report. Westcoast also supplied its estimates of the remaining recoverable pipeline gas available to the Gas Trunk pipelines, as at 1 January 1977, from major gas fields in both British Columbia and Alberta, which are shown in Appendix V of this report.

Based upon the annual production from the reserves available to the Gas Trunk facilities during the period from August 1977 to July 1978, Westcoast gave the following estimates of the reserve life of the Gas Trunk facilities:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Reserves (Bcf)</u>	<u>Current Annual Production (Bcf)</u>	<u>Reserve Life (years)</u>
Boundary Lake	565.4	26.7	21.2
Nig Creek-Laprise pipelines	465.0	26.2	17.7
Jedney Pipeline	205.6	9.4	21.8

In providing its reserve life estimate for the Boundary Lake pipeline, the Applicant included in its calculations the 75 MMcf per day of gas which Pan-Alberta is supplying under contract to Westcoast until 31 October 1989.

Westcoast indicated that the gas supplied through the Gas Trunk facilities is required to meet its existing commitments to its export and domestic customers. In the event that this gas was not available to it, the Applicant would be required to obtain additional sources of natural gas.

OPERATION OF THE GAS TRUNK FACILITIES

The relationship between Westcoast and Gas Trunk with respect to the operation of Gas Trunk's facilities was originally intended to be governed by the terms of the Gas Transportation Contract dated 15 August 1961 between the two companies. Under

the terms of this agreement, as amended, Gas Trunk, as the holder of the necessary authorizations to operate the facilities owned by it, agreed to operate and maintain its pipelines for the transportation of gas for Westcoast. Westcoast agreed to have all gas purchased by it in gas fields adjacent to the Gas Trunk facilities transported through those pipelines. The agreement requires Gas Trunk to add additional facilities to its pipelines in the event that Westcoast requires additional capacity to transport the volumes of gas it purchases. Under the agreement, Westcoast is to pay Gas Trunk's cost of service in respect of the transmission services provided.

By reason of Westcoast's absolute control over the affairs of Gas Trunk, however, the relationship between the two companies is substantially different in practice from that contemplated by the Gas Transportation Contract. Gas Trunk has no employees and its directors and officers are all employees of Westcoast. All the decisions respecting the management of Gas Trunk and the operation of its pipelines are made by Westcoast. The accounting and bookkeeping for Gas Trunk and the operation and maintenance of its pipelines is carried out by Westcoast employees. Westcoast's witnesses indicated that, in the day-to-day operations of Gas Trunk, the Applicant's employees carry out their functions as if Gas Trunk's facilities were owned by Westcoast. It is only when meeting the requirements of the outstanding long-term debt of Gas Trunk that Westcoast employees treat that Company as being a separate entity from Westcoast.

Westcoast's procedures in dealing with the accounts of Gas Trunk further reflect the common operation of the two companies. All expenditures made by Westcoast in operating and maintaining Gas Trunk's facilities are recorded in the books of Westcoast. Once a month, the Applicant transfers these expenditures to the books of Gas Trunk. The costs of servicing Gas Trunk's long-term debt are added to the expenditures transferred from Westcoast's accounts and these amounts are then billed back to the Applicant on a monthly basis. The Applicant indicated that these billing procedures are followed in order to meet the requirements of Gas Trunk's long-term debt. The rates of depreciation applied to Gas Trunk's assets are identical to the rates used for similar assets of Westcoast.

The monthly cost of service billed by Gas Trunk to the Applicant is, subject to certain adjustments, included in the overall cost of service for the Westcoast system, which is billed to the British Columbia Petroleum Corporation under the agreement of 13 November 1973.

Gas Trunk's overall cost of service for the calendar years 1976 and 1977 was \$1,854,504 and \$1,977,934, respectively, and is composed of the following components:

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 866,186	\$ 986,462
Taxes (other than income taxes)	325,234	366,751
Depreciation	468,717	469,044
Debt Service	<u>194,367</u>	<u>155,677</u>
TOTAL	\$1,854,504	\$1,977,934

The Applicant provided schedules showing the original cost of Gas Trunk's plant, property and equipment and accumulated depreciation thereon as at 31 December 1977. The net plant in service as at 31 December 1977 is \$7,087,605.

While the 1961 Gas Transportation Contract contemplated that Gas Trunk would add to its pipeline facilities to meet Westcoast's transportation requirements, it is clear that since 1964 any additions to the Gas Trunk facilities have been made by Westcoast itself, as shown by the various orders granted by this Board.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

As Presiding Member, authorized by the Board under section 14 of the NEB Act, I have given careful consideration to the application and the evidence adduced at the hearing.

The pipeline facilities owned by Gas Trunk in respect of which the Applicant seeks a certificate, are all physically connected to the pipeline system owned and operated by Westcoast. The operation of Gas Trunk's facilities is under the complete control of Westcoast and the businesses of the two companies, except as may be required for purposes of Gas Trunk's long-term debt, are carried on as a single undertaking by the Applicant. The sole purpose of Gas Trunk's facilities is to gather natural gas for delivery into Westcoast's main transmission pipeline, and there is nothing in the operation of these facilities which can be said to be local in character. It is my view that the

gathering lines owned by Gas Trunk are part of a "pipeline" within the meaning of the NEB Act.

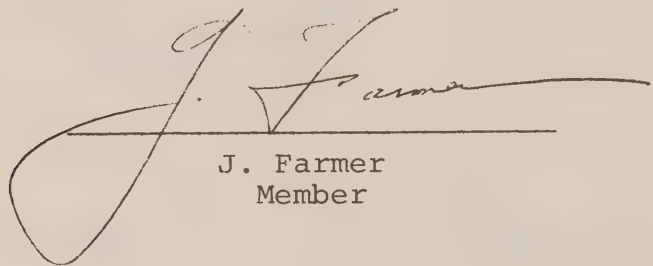
In view of the reserves available to the Gas Trunk pipelines and Westcoast's requirements for natural gas to meet the demands of its customers, I would conclude that the operation of Gas Trunk's pipelines is required as part of the Applicant's overall undertaking. With respect to the section of the Beg pipeline which parallels Westcoast's Alaska Highway pipeline, I recommend that this section of pipeline be operated by Westcoast so as to maintain the overall flow capability of the Beg/North Jedney and the Bubbles/Jedney pipelines, as well as to provide security of supply and increased operating flexibility.

Since the Gas Trunk facilities were constructed and tested in accordance with the applicable codes, and have been properly maintained during their operating life, there is no reason to believe that they cannot be safely operated in the integrated Westcoast system at pressures up to 1,000 psig.

Having regard to the foregoing considerations and having taken into account all matters that appear to me to be relevant, I am satisfied that the pipeline facilities of Gas Trunk are part of a "pipeline" within the meaning of the NEB Act and are and will be required by the present and future public convenience and necessity. Accordingly, I would recommend

that the Board grant a certificate of public convenience and necessity to Westcoast, upon the terms and conditions set out in Appendix VI to this report, in respect of all the facilities described in the application except the Kobes Creek Booster Station, for which the operation by Westcoast has already been authorized by this Board under Order No. XG-1-61.

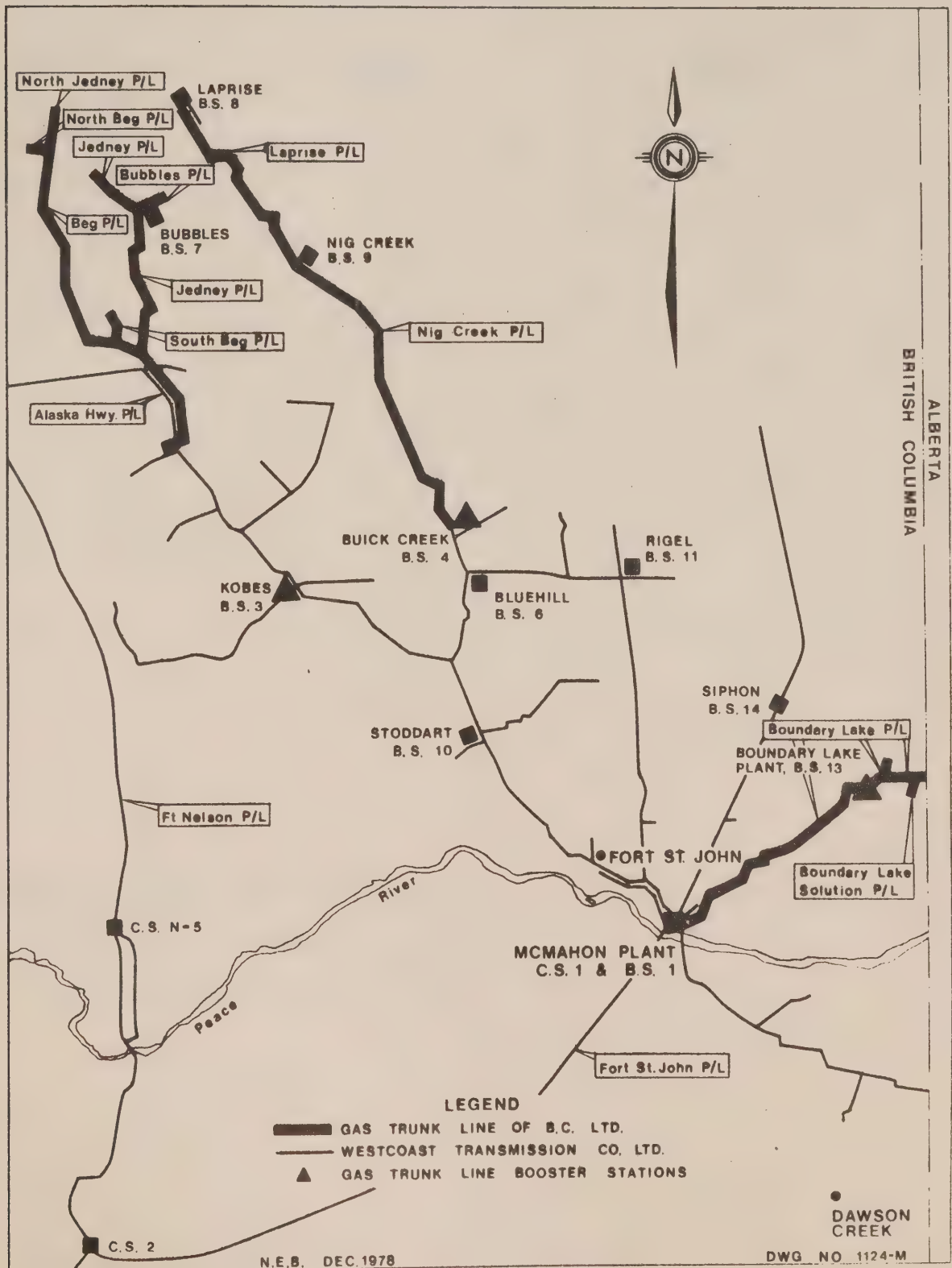
I submit this, my report, to the National Energy Board in accordance with section 14 of the Act. I respectfully recommend that it be adopted as the Board's own findings and decision on the application as allowed under that section.



J. Farmer
Member

GAS TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

GAS TRUNK LINE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LTD. AND WESTCOAST TRANSMISSION CO. LTD.



PIPELINE FACILITIES OWNED BY GAS TRUNK
TO BE OPERATED BY WESTCOAST

<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u> (inches)	<u>Length</u> (miles)
North Jedney	12	13.66
Boundary Lake	16	31.41
Boundary Lake	6	1.16
North Beg	6	3.22
Jedney	10	5.61
Jedney	12	17.79
South Beg	6	2.71
Beg	16	27.43
Boundary Lake Solution	6	1.77
Bubbles	10	1.43
Nig Creek	16	28.31
Laprise	12	<u>23.78</u>
TOTAL		158.28

Boundary Lake gas processing plant

Kobes Creek Booster Station No. 3

Buick Creek Booster Station No. 4

GAS TRUNK
MAXIMUM DAY VOLUME OBLIGATIONS
(Mcf/d @ 15.025 psia)

Boundary Lake 16-inch Pipeline	110,972
North Jedney Pipeline	15,037
North Beg Pipeline	3,224
South Beg Pipeline	2,640
Beg Pipeline	41,502
Jedney Pipeline	11,772
Bubbles Pipeline	4,810
Laprise Pipeline	64,390
Nig Creek Pipeline	<u>23,910</u>
TOTAL	278,257

GAS TRUNK
AVERAGE DAY DELIVERIES
(Mcf/d @ 15.025 psia)

Boundary Lake 16-inch Pipeline	73,074
North Jedney Pipeline	12,094
North Beg Pipeline	1,540
South Beg Pipeline	1,572
Beg Pipeline	11,097
Jedney Pipeline	10,910
Bubbles Pipeline	2,853
Laprise Pipeline	56,227
Nig Creek Pipeline	<u>15,694</u>
TOTAL	185,061

MAJOR GAS FIELDS SUPPLYING
THE GAS TRUNK FACILITIES:
REMAINING RECOVERABLE PIPELINE
GAS AS OF 1 JANUARY 1977

(Bcf @ 14.73 psia)

British Columbia

Beg	91.8
Boundary Lake	113.3
Boundary Lake North	8.5
Bubbles	43.3
Buick Creek	133.6
Buick Creek North	14.1
Buick Creek West	22.1
Jedney	162.3
Kobes-Townsend	48.5
Laprise	279.3
Nig Creek	185.7

Alberta*

Boundary Lake South	41.2
Worsley	84.1

*Under an agreement with Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd., an additional 75 MMcf per day is delivered from Alberta to Westcoast and transmitted through the Boundary Lake pipeline.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The pipeline in respect of which this certificate is issued, shall be operated by Westcoast.
2. Westcoast shall not operate the pipeline in respect of which this certificate is issued, at a pressure exceeding a maximum operating pressure of 1,000 psig.

